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**Springvale mine extension application sent to Planning Assessment Commission**

A proposal to expand Springvale mine’s underground mining area allowing it to operate for another 13 years has been referred back to the independent Planning Assessment Commission for a final decision.

“The application has been put under the microscope through a number of extensive reviews, involving analysis by independent experts and community consultation,” a Department of Planning and Environment spokesperson said.

The Department has recommended the mine’s expansion be approved with a number of strict conditions to manage potential impacts, including:

- strict limits on the salinity of mine-water discharges, developed by the Environment Protection Authority
- strict requirements on offsetting subsidence impacts to upland swamps, including a Swamp Offset Bond and a swamp monitoring program
- an action and monitoring plan for the Upper Coxs River.

The proposal was previously subject to two reviews by the Commission. The Department’s recommended conditions are based on the findings of those reviews.

Springvale Mine is the only local coal source for the Mt Piper Power Station, which provides 15 per cent of the State’s electricity.

The spokesperson said the expansion would secure 310 full-time jobs and an additional 60 jobs during construction as well as 1,200 indirect jobs across NSW.

“In addition, $200 million in royalties, taxes and other income will be provided back to the State to be spent on services such as hospitals, school and roads.”

The Commission will now make the final determination on the project, taking into account the Department’s final assessment and community feedback.

If the proposal is approved by the Commission, it will be subject to regular inspection and review by the Department’s Compliance Officers who will ensure the mine is adhering to its conditions.

For more information about the proposal and to view the Department’s assessment of the project, visit www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au.

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